

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 NIC-01

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P R 151601Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT

REF: LISBON 209

1. LISBON WAS SCENE OF LARGE DEMONSTRATION EVENING OF JANUARY 14 AS INTERSINDICAL, THE COMMUNIST PARTY, MDP/CDE, AND A NUMBER OF SMALLER SIMILARLY-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS DISPLAYED AN IMPRESSIVE ABILITY TO STAGE AN ORDERLY AND WELL-ORGANIZED PARADE AND RALLY. ESTIMATES OF CROWD SIZE VARY FROM 40,000 TO PRESS CLAIMS OF 300,000. EMBASSY OBSERVERS PLACE NUMBER AT ROUGHLY 100,000. PARTICIPANTS CHANTED SLOGANS SUPPORTING LABOR UNITY, AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, AND IN FAVOR OF UNITY OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. UPON ARRIVAL AT LABOR MINISTRY, DEMONSTRATORS WERE ADDRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERSINDICAL AND BY MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS, WHO IN A BRIEF SPEECH SAID THAT THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS WHETHER THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY

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WILL BE ACCEPTED.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JANUARY 15 MINISTER COSTA MARTINS STATED THAT 1,100,000 WORKERS HAD DECLARED, THROUGH MEETINGS HELD BY THEIR LOCAL UNIONS, IN FAVOR OF A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT WHILE UNIONS REPRESENTING ONLY 40,000 WORKERS HAD DECLARED THEMSELVES OPPOSED. HE DEFINED A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT AS ONE WHERE NO UNION MAY REPRESENT THE WORKERS OF A GIVEN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IF THERE IS ALREADY EXISTING IN THAT GROGRAPHIC AREA A UNION HAVING JURISDICTION IN THE SECTOR. MINISTER SAID THE WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO JOIN A UNION AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WILL BE OBSERVED IN UNION ELECTIONS.

3. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL HOLD A DEMONSTRATION JANUARY 16 IN LISBON'S SPORTS PAVILION AGAINST ANY FORM OF A DIRECTED LABOR MOVEMENT. AS CAPACITY OF PAVILION APPROXIMATELY 10,000, RELATIVE STRENGTH OF SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT IS READILY APPARENT.

AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

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Message Attributes

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